AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A 5-aminolevulinic acid salt which is an aminolevulinic acid salt wherein the salt is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of phosphate, nitrate and sulfonate.

2. (original) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1, which is an aminolevulinic acid phosphate represented by the following formula (I):

$$HOCOCH_2CH_2COCH_2NH_2 \cdot HOP(O)(OR^1)_n(OH)_{2-n} \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, alkyl having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms, alkenyl having from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, aralkyl having from 7 to 26 carbon atoms or phenyl; and n is an integer of from 0 to 2; and wherein when n is 2, the plural number of R^1 are the same or different.

3. (original) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 2, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom, methyl, ethyl, *n*-butyl, hexadecyl, 2-ethylhexyl, oleyl, benzyl or phenyl.

4. (currently amended) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, which is in the form of an aqueous solution.

5. (currently amended) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, which is in the form of a solid.

6. (original) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1, which is a 5-aminolevulinic acid nitrate.

7. (original) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 6, which is a solid.

8. (original) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1, which is a 5-aminolevulinic acid sulfonate represented by the following formula (II):

$$HOCOCH_2CH_2COCH_2NH_2 \cdot HOSO_2R^2 \qquad (II)$$

wherein R^2 represents phenyl substituted with lower alkyl.

9. (original) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 8, wherein the substituted phenyl is 4-methylphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl or 2,5-dimethylphenyl.

10. (currently amended) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, which is in the form of an aqueous solution.

11. (currently amended) The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, which is in the form of a solid.

12. (currently amended) A process for producing the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~, which comprises eluting 5-aminolevulinic acid adsorbed on a cation exchange resin, and mixing the eluate with phosphoric acid.

13. (original) The process according to claim 12, wherein the 5-aminolevulinic acid is eluted with aqueous ammonia.

14. (currently amended) A process for producing the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, which comprises eluting 5-aminolevulinic acid adsorbed on a cation exchange resin, and mixing the eluate with nitric acid.

15. (original) The process according to claim 14, wherein the 5-aminolevulinic acid is eluted with aqueous ammonia.

16. (currently amended) A process for producing the 5-aminolevulinic acid sulfonate according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, which comprises eluting 5-aminolevulinic acid adsorbed on a cation exchange resin, and mixing the eluate with sulfonic acid.

17. (original) The process according to claim 16, wherein the 5-aminolevulinic acid is eluted with aqueous ammonia.

18. (currently amended) A composition for photodynamic treatment or photodynamic diagnosis, which comprises the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.

19. (currently amended) A plant activator composition which comprises the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~.

20. (currently amended) A method ~~Use of the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of an agent~~ for photodynamic treatment or ~~an agent for~~ photodynamic diagnosis~~.~~ ,which comprises using the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1.

21. (currently amended) A method for activating ~~Use of the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to any one of claims 1 to 11 as~~ a plant, which comprises using a 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1 ~~activator~~.